

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
U.S. Appln. No.: 09/964,693

In addition, in spite of the fact that the base layer and the intermediate layer are prepared with PVC of a degree of chlorination of 58 to 73%, the present invention employs a different composition for the base layer and the intermediate layer.

In the present situation, since both layers are formed by PVC with degrees of chlorination of 58 to 73%, one of ordinary skill in the art would have no reason to require a different composition in a laminate member. The present invention employs C-PVC in the base layer and intermediate layer in order to obtain flame retarding property, and the compositions thereof are made different in order to facilitate production by lamination or transfer and to increase the laminating property.

The cited references do not teach employing different compositions for the base layer and the intermediate layer.

Applicants also submit that it is not easy for one of ordinary skill in the art to conceive employing C-PVC in the intermediate layer.

Moreover, even if the Examiner believes that it is easy to conceive employing C-PVC in the intermediate layer, applicants submit that the references do not teach altering the composition of the intermediate layer from that of the base layer. Applicants submit that since the references do not contain any description of a reason for altering the composition, there is no positive motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art to adopt a different composition for the intermediate layer and the base layer. This is because, in a laminate member, in which the base layer and the intermediate layer are formed by the same use of the C-PVC, the use of the same compositions for a base layer and intermediate layer will generally provide a lower cost.

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In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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